

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the specification and abstract, deleted claims 1 and 2 and added new claims 4-7. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the specification, abstract and claims as amended.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract and further objected to the disclosure concerning certain informalities. Applicant has amended the abstract and the disclosure and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his objection.

Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Hags, stating that Hags discloses guide rails for conveying a band form member comprising a pair of guide rails 4 comprised of rail main bodies and guide assemblies 20 and forming width direction guide elements 20 and vertical direction guide elements that partially guide an upper surface of said band form member due to the space between the upper guide structures.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Hags and respectfully submits that while Hags may disclose guide rails for conveying a band form member, it does not disclose guide rails such as is now claimed by Applicant's claims 3-7. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that Hags does not disclose that the guide members would comprise a cylindrical member provided on the rail main body of a height greater than the thickness of the band form material and a disk provided on each of said cylinder having a diameter greater than that of the cylinder. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that Hags does not disclose that the disk provided on the top of the cylinder would be rotatably connected thereto.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Hags does not disclose each and every element of claims 3-7. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-7 are not anticipated by Hags.

Applicant also acknowledges the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review and will submit formal drawings upon a notice of allowance correcting the matter set forth therein.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification, abstract and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

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Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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Name


Signature

10/31/2001

Date

Application No. 09/489,700

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, second paragraph beginning at line 7, has been amended as follows:

Typical band-form member conveying guide rails used in a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus have a structure as shown in [Figure 3] Figures 3(a) and 3(b).

Page 3, fourth paragraph beginning at line 12, has been amended as follows:

A first embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to [Figure 1] Figures 1(a) and 1(b).

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract at page 7 has been amended as follows:

Guide rails for guiding a band-form member such as a film carrier tape in a semiconductor manufacturing apparatus [comprising]. The guide rails include a pair of rail main bodies with a plurality of guide assemblies provided on the upper surfaces of the rail main bodies so that the guide assemblies partially guide the upper surface of the band-form member.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1 and 2 without prejudice.

New claims 3-7 have been added as follows:

—3. Guide rails for conveying a band-form member comprising a pair of guide rails that are disposed facing each other so as to guide both sides of a band-form member, wherein said guide rails are comprised of rail main bodies and a plurality of guide members provided on said pair of rail main bodies, each of said guide members comprising a cylindrical member provided on said rail main bodies of a height greater than a thickness of said band-form member and a disk provided on said cylindrical member having a diameter greater than that of the cylindrical member.

4. The guide rails according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of guide members are provided on said rail main bodies at fixed intervals in a conveying direction of said band-form member so as to guide said band-form member in a width direction thereof.

5. The guide rails according to claim 4, wherein said disk is rotatably coupled to said cylindrical member.

6. The guide rails according to claim 5, wherein said cylindrical members are spaced apart in a transverse direction to said guide rails an amount equal to a width of the band-form member.

7. The guide rails according to claim 5, wherein said rotatable coupling between said disk and said cylinder comprises a pin provided on a top surface of said cylinder and a hole in a center of said disk which is rotatably fitted on said pin.—